



#31

Theme: Let's Have Lunch

Scripture: Romans 12:10-12

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

A Thought: The closing remarks from our pastor on Sunday was *“God bless you, shake hands and don't fight.”* With this pithy admonition we stand in unison, gather our Bibles, step out to the nearest aisle and visit a fellow congregant. Smiles abound, muffled conversations and numerous hugs is the scene minutes before we bound or stroll to the parking lot. Sunday after Sunday the same routine ensues. Recently we broke the practice and went to lunch with two of my wife's Bible study friends. Breaking bread with Christians is a good way to spend the Lord's day. After a few minutes of patter about the menu choices we talked about how and when we received the Lord and what He had done in our respective lives. For two hours we were immersed in light and serious conversation followed by laughter, tears and more laughter. There is something special when Christian brothers and sisters share an “after church” fellowship. Romans 12:13 (HCSB) *“Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”* These moments of fellowship are heartwarming.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- How often do you ask a Christian friend to lunch?
- If not, what prohibits you from do so?
- Do you enjoy socializing with fellow Christians? If not, why?
- Do you have a close Christian brother that you are comfortable with to share personal (willing to be vulnerable) issues?
- Ask the Lord to help you reach to other brothers in the Lord.

Scriptures to read:

- Genesis 24:8; Genesis 24:31-33a; Proverbs 17:7, 18:24; Matthew 18:20;
- Acts 4:32; John 15:13; Romans 12:9-13; Hebrews 10:25; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Timothy 3:2;
- 1 Peter 4:9

Quote: C.S. Lewis, Author and Christian apologist (What Christians Want to Know.com) *“Is any pleasure on earth as great as a circle of Christian friends by a good fire.”*

Bottom Line: Sometime ago my wife and I invited close friends to be our guests at a fancy event. I was elected to drive. Once we entered the car a spirited conversation took hold. All four of us exchanged pleasantries and the obligatory “How are you?” Within ten minutes of the one hour drive my friend and I accomplished what we had to say. As we approached the parking lot the spouses were still talking. With enthusiasm! The point is that many of us of the male gender find it difficult to sustain a conversation for a lengthy period. In John Gray’s book, “Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus tells us that words for men are “simply for conveying facts and information.” For women “words are like breathing.” To many this explanation is too simplistic. Nevertheless, truth be told, it happens one too many times. Fellas, possibly, though, somehow, someway we have to make the effort to be more perspective, more hospitable and open our hearts to our Christian brothers and sisters. Let’s be attentive to John 13:34-35 (NIV) “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

Please click: www.Missionebenezer.org/thebottomline#!the-bottom-line/cmx0

